

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

Project Summary: The purpose of the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (Recovery Program) is to protect and recover endangered fishes in the San Juan River Basin while water development proceeds in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws. Endangered species include the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker. The specific goals of the Recovery Program are:

- To conserve populations of the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker in the Basin consistent with recovery goals established under the Endangered Species Act.
- To proceed with water development in the San Juan River Basin in compliance with federal and state laws; interstate compacts; Supreme Court decrees; and federal trust responsibilities to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe, Jicarilla Apache Nation and Navajo Nation.

Recovery Program activities involve restoring and managing stream flows and habitat, boosting wild populations with hatchery-raised endangered fish and reducing negative interactions with certain non-native fish species.

Strategic Value: The Recovery Program affords a unique opportunity whereby all entities that have potential or opportunity to recover or protect the river environment are involved directly in the recovery process.

Benefits: While species recovery and water development are the primary benefits of the Recovery Program, recovery activities such as instream flow protection and habitat restoration will also likely result in healthier riverine and riparian environments in national parks, on tribal lands, and on other public and private lands enjoyed by outdoor recreationists and nature enthusiasts. The San Juan Recovery Program provides Endangered Species Act compliance for over 300 water development projects in Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. In addition, it is anticipated that actions taken under the Recovery Program will provide benefits to other native fishes in the San Juan Basin and prevent them from becoming endangered in the future.



San Juan River



Endangered razorback sucker



Fish passage on San Juan River